

matter of the Bill C-5, An Act to regulate interests in petroleum in relation to frontier lands, to amend the Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act and to repeal the Canada Oil and Gas Act, in advance of the said Bill coming before the Senate or any matter relating thereto.

Hon. H.A. Olson: Honourable senators, I wish to raise a point of order. Senator Frith raised this same point the other day. Can you refer a matter to a committee that does not exist?

Senator Doody: Well, there are two items here. The important one is that I am not referring anything to anybody: I am giving notice that on Thursday I will move that motion. If the committee has not been restructured by that time, then I will stand the motion and wait until such time as it is duly constituted. In any event, I am simply giving notice that this matter is back on the agenda of the Senate. It is a bill that we knew in its previous incarnation as Bill C-94, I think, and we had done some study on it in that committee, and in its new form it will be available soon for reference to that committee. When the committee is constituted, we will make the necessary motion.

CANADA-NEWFOUNDLAND ATLANTIC ACCORD IMPLEMENTATION

NOTICE OF MOTION TO AUTHORIZE ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE TO STUDY SUBJECT MATTER OF BILL
C-6

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I give notice that on Thursday next, October 9, 1986, I will move:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to examine the subject-matter of the Bill C-6, An Act to implement an agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador on offshore petroleum resource management and revenue sharing and to make related and consequential amendments, in advance of the said Bill coming before the Senate or any matter relating thereto.

Senator Frith: That is the old Bill C-94.

QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

LABOUR

BRITISH COLUMBIA LONGSHOREMEN'S LOCKOUT—
GOVERNMENT ACTION

Hon. H.A. Olson: Honourable senators, I should like to direct my question, respecting the longshoremen's lockout which commenced in Vancouver in the last few hours, to the Leader of the Government in the Senate.

[Senator Doody:]

Could the Leader of the Government bring us up to date on the status of this particular matter? Perhaps he can advise us whether or not the federal government has appointed or intends to appoint a mediator to deal with this problem and, if so, when.

I am sure the Leader of the Government realizes that this matter is of particular importance to the prairie economy and, more specifically, to the grain farmers because of the strike-lockout that has been in effect in Thunder Bay for the last four or five weeks.

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, the dispute in question, which has led to the lockout, has to do with the so-called "container clause." I am not sure whether that dispute would lend itself readily to mediation.

In any case, the Minister of Labour has today sent a telegram to the Maritime Employers' Association asking them to allow the dispatch of longshoremen to load the grain ships in Vancouver and Prince Rupert. If that permission is granted, the situation with regard to grain exports will be considerably eased. If it is not granted, the government will have to consider what its next step should be.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Perhaps Senator Olson is about to ask the same question, but I should like to ask for an explanation of what the government leader said about mediation.

Why would the container clause not lend itself to mediation? I am not suggesting that it would, but I want to understand what the Leader of the Government meant when he said that it might not.

Senator Murray: I was thinking in terms of the dispute in Thunder Bay which has just been settled. That involved a number of issues as between management and unions.

In this instance, it seems to be a case of a confrontation where both sides have taken a very strong position. If my friend saw the news last night, he would understand what I mean. Each side has taken a pretty rigid position and it is not clear that there is any middle ground to be found.

Senator Olson: Am I correct that the Leader of the Government mentioned that the Minister of Labour either had requested or was in the process of requesting something from the unions?

Senator Murray: No, from the Maritime Employers' Association.

Senator Olson: I take it he is seeking acquiescence so that the loading of grain may be permitted even while the lockout is under way, because problems relating to containers could continue for quite some time.

Is it a fact that the unions have already indicated a willingness to continue loading grain while this lockout is in progress and while the dispute in relation to other matters continues?

• (1410)

Senator Murray: That is true. The union leaders have indicated that they will be prepared to move the grain.